



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 21, 2003

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable W.J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of July 17, 2003, requesting the Administration's views on an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary (CJSJ) FY 2004 appropriations bill that would restrict the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) ability to implement its June 2, 2003, media ownership rules.

In reaching its conclusions on media ownership, the FCC conducted an unprecedented and exhaustive review of its existing media ownership rules. The review lasted 20 months and included 12 FCC commissioned studies of the U.S. media market. This process led the FCC to update its rules to more accurately reflect the realities of the modern media marketplace, with the enormous proliferation of outlets for news and information. The Administration believes that it is not in the public interest to limit the FCC's ability to implement its new rules.

If this amendment were contained in the final legislation presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bolten", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joshua B. Bolten
Director